Creating Living Knowledge Workshop
The Creating Living Knowledge Report

In April 2016 the Connected Communities Programme and the NCCPE launched Creating Living Knowledge, a report into University-Community Collaborations. The report is the result of a two year study into the Connected Communities Programme that involved over 100 interviews, 300 survey response and a series of workshops. The report makes 4 primary recommendations:

1: Take the simple steps needed to enhance the infrastructure for high quality collaborative research partnerships, In particular by addressing the following priorities:
   i. Extend Connected Communities funding approaches across research councils
   ii. Invest in research assistants for the long term
   iii. Build capacity for early career researchers, doctoral students and peer reviewers
   iv. Develop university professional services to better support collaborative research

2: Recognise that time is to collaborative research what a supercomputer is to big data. In particular, through the following three priority areas:
   i. Extend (the same) funding over longer time scales
   ii. Rebalance funding for partnerships and projects
   iii. Create connections between teaching and research

3: Take explicit steps to mitigate the risk of enhancing inequalities through collaborative research.
   In particular, through addressing the following priorities:
   i. Funders should develop a more nuanced lexicon of types of community partners and the forms of funding and support that might be offered to or requested from different groups.
ii. Explicit efforts need to be made to understand and address the barriers that prevent different minority groups from contributing to research projects.

iii. Research investment needs to be considered in the wider context of the university as a whole.

4: Invest in civil society’s public learning infrastructure through one key priority:

i. Establish a new funding programme open to civil society organisations resourced by a combination of RCUK and the larger charitable trusts and foundations

The Launch Workshop

The report was presented at a workshop with representatives of funding bodies, government, community organisations and higher education institutions. The authors shared the findings of the report and asked how we might set about making the improvements called for in the recommendations. Participants in the workshop were asked to contribute to discussions in a World Café around core themes of the Creating Living Knowledge report:

- University Structures  
- Capacity Building  
- Funding  
- Connecting Research with Teaching  
- Exclusion  
- Brokerage

They shared experiences of what has already happened in these areas and put forward ideas for making changes within the next 6 months. At the end of the workshop participants were asked to share one thing that they would take away from the workshop that could influence their work and that of their colleagues or institutions. As well as summarising the group discussions, this zine collates the thoughts of those individuals.

We are circulating this now as a prompt, challenge and reminder to those present and those interested in the topic to continue developing these ideas.

The workshop was supported by:
Creating a sustainable infrastructure for collaborative research partnerships between universities and communities:

What is needed?

Notes and reflections from the Connected Communities Creating Living Knowledge Report launch

The under-valued opportunity to connect research and teaching

There is a huge opportunity to create fantastic curriculum and pedagogy through community-university partnerships. There are many examples around the world to draw upon – looking, for example, at Service Learning, in the US. There are also opportunities to create new programmes on community-peer research training. Teaching enables longer term partnerships. However, there are concerns that adult and continuing education traditions have declined – need to think about how university-community partnerships might reconnect with some of these traditions and allow greater flexibility in provision. Ideas proposed include: setting up summer schools to stretch the curriculum, reviving continuing education, developing ethical guidelines for community-engaged learning, developing joint delivery with community partners, developing stand alone modules that can run alongside or as part of dual honours degrees.

How to develop a better funding landscape for collaborative research

There is an urgent need for funders to meet together to address this agenda, and to think and work collectively. There are a number of schemes that encourage these collaborations, but they are rarely evaluated together. There is a need for different sorts of funding – often small scale, long term, easy to access – in order to build relationships. Funding of core time to enable networking is essential and there needs to be a very diverse funding mix to ensure that organisations don’t become over-reliant on one source.
Building capacity for collaborative research

Capacity needs to be built in practice and through trying out how to do this work – this can be enhanced by building in opportunities to experiment, reflect and channel learning to other organisations throughout the project. Levers for encouraging the development of collaborative research might include requiring all academics to submit an impact case study – as well as ensuring that ‘impact’ can be carried between institutions rather than tied to one place. There is a need to translate the growing academic research literature on collaboration into practical tools and guidance – e.g. the ESRC Impact Toolkit.

University systems and structures

Key issue is to ensure that university professional services are involved in the discussion of aims and purposes of collaborative research from the outset – not just introduced at the end. There is a need for both academics and professional services staff to learn from each other about how these systems might evolve to make it easier, for example, for payments and contracts to work well. There is a need for a national network to share ideas when institutions develop good practice.

Avoiding the creation of new exclusions

There is a need to actively publicise the stories from the CC Programme to showcase the sorts of collaborations that are possible – this will engage new partners and bring in new collaborators. There need to be brokers and mediators to enable connections to be made between unlikely and unexpected groupings. Fundamentally, the university itself needs to be more diverse if it is to connect more easily with more diverse groups in society. There should be open and accessible ‘shop windows’ for universities – such as the Brighton CUPP programme – allowing community members to raise questions and to be partnered with academics who might be interested in collaborating. Some targeted funding streams are needed – to explicitly address and engage communities who are currently poorly represented. More and more frequent opportunities to meet between academics and community partners who are interested in developing collaborative research partnerships are needed – speed dating, introductions, informal conversations required. Above all, the existing stories need to be circulated – social media helps.

Professor Keri Facer, University of Bristol.
What will you take away from this workshop?
Core funding for community capacity building and research "thinking" time

RCUK

BLF

Philanthropists

Govt

Foundations
Sharing learning from today with colleagues who are not here.

How to foster genuine collaboration through funding?

What would a similar event comprising mainly community partners have concluded?
As someone whose project was a community project that led to working on a PhD I felt I was 'playing the system' somewhat. Community work under the 'guru' of academia.

Today has been a revelation that actually I was doing it 'right'.

Something to consider when planning the next steps. I want to do more of this, and, excitingly, so do other people in this room... and beyond.
I am sick of Utopia. It is a difficult idea to work with. I keep saying it's not a place; it's a destination which helps. I like the idea of not silly optimism when I cut out the letters to make a giant sign that said Utopia the kids spelt it wrong and wrote "Opiate" Utopia is the Opiate of the Masses.
Think about LEGACY in a creative, rounded, holistic manner
  - collect stories about changes that have some connection with programme
  - encourage reflection
  - encourage creativity
  - think chaos!
  
That leads to beauty (think trees)
Harness my taste for interdisciplinary and my ability to translate across cultures.

To work with some Film + Management Depts to design PhD/post-doc projects.

And together we could make some funny films to circulate across institutions to support administrators to support creative working.

A cost-benefit analysis of risk aversion in University finance & contract terms.

That engage with University support structures in order to co-produce...
WALK A KM
IN YOUR PARTNER’S SHOES*(NOT ON CAMPUS)
Think further about:

What is a community?

and the relationship to research?
• I want to try & find key people in my university that can help me out at an institutionally specific level (e.g. other CC researchers, finance people, HR people). Talk to them about CC projects & the best ways to practically manage them within university structures. Share this information.

• Talk to people higher up in my dept. about the opportunities that I could apply for (e.g. networking grants) as I had research time rather than being filled to capacity with teaching (sorry this one is selfish).
Many of the questions/issues we're facing are international in scope - I want to pull together what I've learned from involvement in CC projects with examples/case studies from elsewhere on the planet. Secondly, I want to articulate/re-articulate the importance of practice (particularly socially-engaged arts/cultural/media practice) at the core of this sort of work. I'm not sure practice and action always? based methods are very well understood (esp. arts-based methods) across the CC community.
1) Lobby (nag!) my institution to give appropriate support and resources for work with communities

2) Work with current partners/stakeholders on how we can work together (concretely) to embed community partnership in HE organizations

3) Campaign within HE for co-produced research to be valued in hiring/promotion/research tears procedures & partners to be adequately remunerated
Mapping the brokerage networks, people, departments, etc. within HEI x museum heritage community landscapes.

Using the intel to help open up access and unlock potential between sectors - meet somewhere.

And provide AHRC, HEFCE, EPSRC, DEMS, etc. with a strategic overview.

Try to explain to HE finance systems there is a way to administer payments to small groups (look at Middlesex).
Follow up on CC case studies that have worked well in heritage. Share this knowledge within my organisation and use it to think about how IROs can work best within this framework.

An idea was raised about IROs playing an important role at the interface between communities and universities - how?
Consider the possibility of reciprocal visits between Wester Hailes and other nearby connected communities projects (past or present).

Reflect more on the power of networks and how I can support others to access them.
Work with University’s Governance, Ethics Boards & R&D Department to promote the idea of a AHRC model of co-production infrastructure. This model will start with specific ethical principles (such as “mutual-benefit”, “sharing data & outputs” & “respect for participants’ wishes”). These principles' administrative, data management, contracts & practices & tools will be developed.
new ways

I've been there, I can help. I've been there.

Reframing the list

Skills:
I want to work with university setting & research council

Distribute with network

Carly: I can't think of better ways to distribute $62.00 per form.

Distribute with network

Contact to create expenses better data streams.

Don't respond. What!!
HYDROCITIZENSHIP
CC PROJECT WILL
SHARE GREAT
STORIES THROUGH
THE CC NETWORK

INC THAT A COMMUNITY PARTNER IS/IS NOW
LEAD ON PROJECT 05/7!

NO SUCH ‘THING’ AS A COMMUNITY GROUP...

... NO SUCH ‘THING’ AS A UNIVERSITY...

... HOW DO WE RESPOND TO SUCH VARIETY?
GREATER CONNECTEDNESS BETWEEN FUNDERS
Draft my story into one paragraph and put it out to community networks.

Complete some downloadable resources for community partners and get them on the web.
Develop an easy way in for the wider community to understand what we have to offer - via websites, social media, open door, the comms. Include snippets from projects, viewpoints from those involved in research etc., inc. other resources & community partners, industry, public sector etc.

WORK ON THE NOTION OF 'LONG TERM' OUTPUTS IN TERMS OF SOCIAL/HUMAN CAPITAL & RELATIONSHIP BUILDING. IDENTIFY/Maintain THE RELATIONSHIPS, & CONTINUE TO 'NUDGE' IDEAS & BUILD CAPACITIES
Connect

NETWORKS

- investors
- funders
- customers
- partners
- community
- charities

Social
- sharing
- connecting
- innovation
- media
- events
- platforms

- remove strict boundaries; open up
- enable communication, connection, exchange, sharing
- resources, knowledge

Create opportunities
- projects

Follow-up
Use our position as a support service to broker and open up areas of the community that have a limited voice to meet researchers who can use their “story” to help make sustainable and real change through live work with (c) + local community
TAKE AWAY
/CARRY OUT/00T

1. CONTINUE CONVERSATION/
   NETWORKING WITH NEW
   CONTACTS/PROJECTS...

   • KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE
   • METHODS
   • EVALUATION
   • COMMUNITY PARTNERS
   • COLLABORATIVE FUNDING

2. FEEDBACK TO CC/FELLOWS/AHRC
   LESSONS LEARNT, SUGGESTIONS
   IMPROVEMENTS
Mooc as a way of accrediting community-based research training

Brokers/Connectors - individuals who can work within time + resource poor organisations for finite periods to facilitate research networks + the creative ideas from the Organisation into potential research partnerships.

Research forums, open community social spaces for people to come together and spark ideas. Film screenings etc. - social time starting + developing relationships
draw on our existing work on brokers and create map
develop guide to funding CUP work exploring all aspects need to think about when applying for funding
Identity and publicise some 'excellent' examples of university-community collaborations. As the basis for a new UCEF (University-Community Excellence Framework!!)

Share
Exchange
Guests motivated differently
Make connect produce extend
benefit.
Find ways of flaunting CC works into other available channels:
- existing engagement projects;
- media discussion;
- new media formats;
- teaching;
- promote the CC book;
- identify a new community-powered project & work on it.
"Connected, Community-relevant and engaged research needs to show how it is an example of universities leading, social innovating and delivering on all the key objectives that have been delivered to them. It is not an exceptional “nice to have” but an integral element of a successful university and fruitful academic career."
What I would like to do following on from conversations today...

DEVELOP a structure for supervisory relationships for people either running or responsible for connected communities projects.

THIS COULD INVOLVE... 🥇 coffee every month

or TIME to reflect on

Something that went wrong 😞
or something that went right 😊

SHARING this process with the team.... 🧑‍🚀 co-supervising

also coaching .... on trains

or just going for a walk 🚶
or Drawing together as a form of co-learning so people can REFLECT on what they have done and the ETHICS of this process.

KP.
RECREATE THE WHEEL IF THAT'S WHAT'S NEEDED
KNOWLEDGE, RESEARCH & EXPERTISE -
EXPECTATIONS, COMMUNITIES AND UNIVERSITIES.

Comparative/cross-national
A study of what done & how
- using what methods &
what achieved - about
strengths, but also
boundaries of difference
& recognition. - written
loads already done -
so that it for me :)
Write a blog piece for our staff intranet about what it was like taking part in today’s event and encourage debate about the project’s findings.

(a small rather than a big thing but lots of big things start small).
Story telling!
Excite people about the wonderful work.

P.M.
We really can create a network and a community to take this forward - we can get some more sessions going.

K.F.

outside London.
0 Share CC learning with colleagues

0 Explore potential for collaborative funding pot for time to build relationships and think creatively, open to community groups and researchers

0 Shout about successes of CC projects focused on heritage (HCF+ others)

0 Learn lessons of success and be brave about lessons of failure
Pull in EDT - Body Experience
> W21 Hub + an awareness of connected communities

Begin to gather evidence from students w/ I + I on how engagement activities makes them more employable / is useful in job applications etc

Spread out / disseminate the executive summary from the "Creating Living Knowledge" to university + community partners (easier if a link or easy handout? + to teacher office also
- Silos into learning circles
- Risk taking
- Open networks

- Mixed ecologies
- Learning spirals
- Valuing the messy
Do another project
Sensitised to what been choosser. Try harder
Say better! + bean pots.

THE NEW 'RESEARCH UK' COMBINED
FUNDING BODY SHOULD HAVE A
STATUTORY DUTY TO PROMOTE
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN THE
RESEARCH LANDSCAPE.
Develop expertise in my institution re collaborative research- opportunities and challenges. Extend this to help support new academics with new collaborative projects that work with new community partners...

... with the objective of further diversifying collaborative styles of working and relationships. ... Diversifying participation!
Promote examples of good university-community collaborations, highlighting what has made them successful, what can be learnt, and how they can be replicated by others.
Connect community participation groups to RRI group

- MAP methodologies for RRI

- Develop collaboration:
  - Natural + Disability Studies
  - Soc Sci + Communities
REF.
Making Research Impact Case Studies Palatable

+ Everyone has to do an impact case study!

— Connect with James Wilson on
Have a closer look at "service learning"—is it what we're doing?

Explore doctoral research partnerships with local government.

Ask CC Network (again) who is working with (in partnerships) local government on collaborative projects using design-focused approaches.
This Year

I will host Short!

/ a Series of workshops

based on connected communities

projects I have been involved

in at Cardiff University.

These will be used as practical examples to illuminate some of

the issues discussed today.

Academic, PG Students, Researchers, policy makers,

community participants will all be invited (including VC!)

Will end with day conference

on what is to be done, invite

Ken and then drink lots of wine!
Explore the idea of proposing a project to the University (as an external partner) rather than being employed as a sub-contractor on an existing University AHRC-funded bid.

Would it work the other way round to the usual process?

Would a community group, freelance artist or other external partner be ‘allowed’ to make this approach, make this application?

Would the University be open to a collaboration introduced in this way?

Let’s experiment!
More thinking about new literacies for collaborative research - how do they interact with the 'research skills' traditionally prioritised by different organisations? What do they mean for different collaborative roles, processes, outputs? How can they be developed and supported?
Creating real diversity in who engages with who (with my policy: magic wand)

De-mystify who is involved and how
Encourage more regional bodies to assist brokerage!

Which orgs are in the area
Be compelling! Tell stories of good practice

Advocacy to help others see they could get involved
Tell my research project team what a great job they're doing on our AHRC project.

Think about more ways to widely communicate findings/output from our AHRC project.

Think more innovately about how to work with community researchers.

Access more funding for sharing enterprise, expertise, and training.
Thank you Paul, Sophie & Ken. Jo.

Photos and further information about the workshop are available here: https://connected-communities.org/index.php/events/event/creating-living-knowledge-workshop/

Find out more about the Connected Communities Programme:
Web: www.connected-communities.org
Twitter: @ahrccconnect #ahrccc
Facebook: www.facebook.com/ahrccconnect
Instagram: www.instagram.com/connected.communities

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